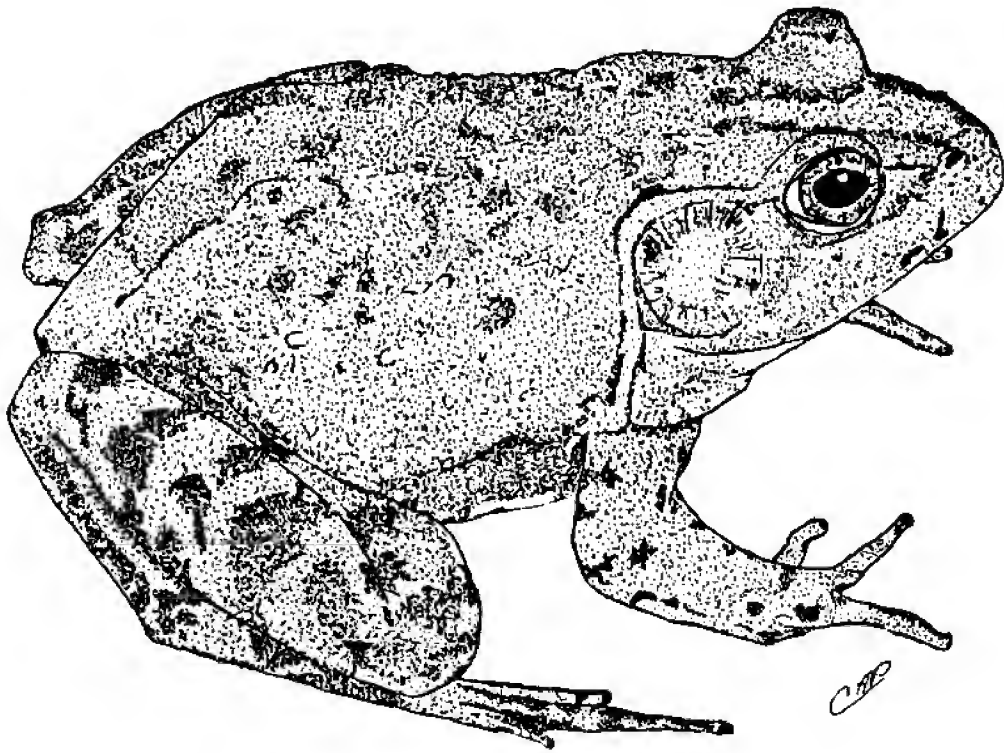


# CATESBEIANA



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## BULLETIN INFORMATION

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(Editorial policy continued on inside back cover)

CATESBEIANA  
Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

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# **Reptile and Amphibian Survey of Warm Springs Mountain Preserve with Forays into Douthat State Park.**

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## **Introduction**

The Annual Spring Meeting and Survey of the Virginia Herpetological Society was held on 1-2 July 2006 at Warm Springs Mountain Preserve and Douthat State Park. Thirty-five members and people in the local community turned out for the weekend event. The property for Warm Springs Mountain Preserve was purchased by The Nature Conservancy in 2002 from a land holding company called Virginia Hot Springs. The land was purchased originally by the Ingalls family who wanted to preserve the area from development. The property encompasses 3,751 hectares (9,269 acres) and resides in Bath County, Virginia. Warm Springs Mountain is considered part of the Allegheny Highlands. The highest elevation on the preserve is Bald Knob, reaching an elevation of 1,287 meters (4,225 feet). The eastern border of this preserve joins with the George Washington National Forest. To our knowledge this is the first herpetological survey of the area with the exception of limited work by Richard Hoffman (1986).

Sunday's survey was conducted at locations around Douthat State Park. Douthat State Park has been the focus of some previous herpetological work. The second annual Virginia BioBlitz, a 30 hour survey focused on all major taxonomic groups, was held at this park on 17-18 May 2003. The VHS conducted the amphibian and reptile work for this event (Gibson and Hobson, 2006). It was noted in the report of this work that conditions during the 30 hour blitz were cold and rainy and probably led to few observations of reptiles. It was suggested then that the VHS revisit the area to add to the records of reptiles. Additionally,

Sattler and Gibson (2008, 2009, and unpublished data) have written several field notes on work they are conducting on the Jefferson Salamanders at the park.

## Materials and Methods

Warm Springs Mountain Preserve was visited on 1 July and Douthat State Park was surveyed on 2 July. The large group was split into multiple teams so that a variety of habitats and sites could be sampled. Standard collecting techniques were utilized including flipping cover objects such as rocks, bark, and logs, visual encounters, listening for vocalizing anurans, and dipnetting for aquatic amphibians. Two baited hoop turtle traps were set in Douthat Lake on the night of 1 July and checked the morning of 2 July. All animals hand captured were inspected for disease and parasites. Each team leader was responsible for documenting all species found, total number of animals captured, and the microhabitat where each species was encountered.

## Study Sites

### Warm Springs Mountain Preserve Sites

#### Site 1: Fire Road 364

This site was accessed via Fire Road 364 off State Route 39 at the northern end of the property. A survey group followed the road to its end and then surveyed Mare Run and the forest surrounding this stream.

#### Site 2: Dan Ingles Overlook Trail

The overlook trail is located in the extreme northern portion of Warm Springs Mountain Preserve. The survey group parked in a parking lot accessed via State Route 39. The survey group followed the steep trail and surveyed the surrounding forest.

## Warm Springs Survey

### Site 3: Bald Knob

Bald Knob is the highest peaks in the preserve with an elevation of 4229'. The trail leading to the lookout tower was surveyed.

### Site 4: Deciduous Trail

This site is located adjacent to Ingalls Air Field. The most interesting feature of this site is a high altitude bog.

### Site 5: TNC observation deck

A small group visited a northern preserve site at Flag Rock near the TNC observation deck.

## Douthat State Park Sites

### Site 6: Douthat Lake and Spillway

This site consists of the lake and the spillway at the south end of the lake. A few vernal pools were also surveyed adjacent to the spillway.

### Site 7: Beards Gap Hollow, Locust Gap and Stony Run Trails

The survey group followed the three listed trails for this survey site. These trail names correspond to trails listed in the state park's trail guide.

### Site 8. Guest Lodge Trail, Mountain Top Trail

This site consists of two trails. As listed above the names correspond with the trials listed in the park's trail guide.

## Results

A total of 28 species and 121 animals were found during the survey weekend. Warm Springs Mountain Preserve yielded 18 species (five anurans, seven salamanders, one lizard, zero turtles, and five snakes). Douthat State Park produced 19 species (seven anurans, six salamanders, two lizards, zero turtles, and four snakes).

Table 2. Summary of the number of animals observed at each site.

Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<b><u>Species</u></b>									
Amphibians									
<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>			1	2			1		
<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>						6M	1		
<i>Hyla versicolor</i>						1			
<i>Pseudacris c. crucifer</i>				1		1			
<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>						2			
<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>				1					
<i>Lithobates palustris</i>	3					1			
<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>	1			2			3M		
<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>						L			
<i>Desmognathus fucus</i>	6					4			
<i>Desmognathus monticola</i>	11					3	4		
<i>Eurycea cirrigera</i>	4					3			
<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>		7							
<i>Plethodon cylindraceous/ glutinosus</i>	16	3	1				1		
<i>Pseudotriton ruber</i>	1								
<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>		1E		1		1	N		
<b>Reptiles</b>									
<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>			1			2	1		
<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>						4	2		

# Warm Springs Survey

Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<i>Agkistrodon c. mokasen</i>								1	2 DOR
<i>Carphophis a. amoenus</i>							3		
<i>Crotalus horridus</i>			1		2				
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>						1	2	1	
<i>Lampropeltis t. triangulum</i>			1						
<i>Nerodia s. sipedon</i>						2			
<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>									1 DOR
<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>	1								
<i>Storeria o. occipitomaculata.</i>					1				
<i>Thamnophis s. sirtalis</i>				1					
Total Number of animals/site	43	11	5	8	3	31	18	2	

M= metamorph, N = Numerous, L = Larvae, E = Eft, DOR = dead on road

## Annotated Checklist

### Amphibians

1. *Anaxyrus americanus americanus* (American Toad) – (3,4,7 )

American toads were observed in grass by a gravel road at site three, at the base of a tree at site seven, and in a boggy area at site four.

2. *Anaxyrus fowleri* (Fowler’s Toad) – (6,7)

Six metamorph *Anaxyrus fowleri* were captured along the edge of a vernal pool near the dam spillway at site six. A single adult was found on the forest floor adjacent to the woodland vernal pool at site seven.

3. *Hyla versicolor* (Gray Treefrog) – (6)

One lone Common Gray Treefrog was heard vocalizing by Douthat Lake on 2 July.

4. *Pseudacris crucifer crucifer* (Northern Spring Peeper) – (4,6)

An adult Northern Spring Peeper was captured at site four near a boggy habitat. A male peeper was heard calling on 2 July at the edge of the lake at site six.

5. *Lithobates catesbeianus* (American Bullfrog) - (6)

Two large adult bullfrogs were observed at the shore of Douthat Lake while setting turtle traps on 1 July.

6. *Lithobates clamitans melanota* (Northern Green Frog) – (4)

On 1 July one male Northern Green Frog was vocalizing from a boggy area at site four.

7. *Lithobates palustris* (Pickerel Frog) – (1,6)

Several Pickerel Frogs were found; one in a muddy seep at site one and the other in the leaf litter of a floodplain near the lake at site six.

8. *Lithobates sylvatica* (Wood Frog) – (1,4,7)

Wood frogs were found in rotten logs and under leaf litter at three sites. All observations were made near water.

9. *Ambystoma maculatum* (Spotted Salamander) – (6)

Spotted salamanders were found at one site. Many larvae were

## Warm Springs Survey

dipnetted in the vernal pool by the spillway of Douthat Lake.

### 10. *Desmognathus fuscus* (Northern Dusky Salamander) – (1,6)

All ten dusky salamanders found were hiding under rocks along streams.

### 11. *Desmognathus monticola* (Seal Salamander) – (1,6,7)

Seal Salamanders were found under rocks and in the water of small streams at three sites.

### 12. *Eurycea cirrigera* (Southern Two-lined Salamander) – (1,6)

All seven Southern Two-lined Salamanders were found under rocks along streams at sites one and six.

### 13. *Plethodon cinereus* (Red-backed Salamander) – (2)

Surprisingly, Red-backed Salamanders were only found at one site. This site was one of the driest and most upland. Red-backed salamanders were found under rocks and logs.

### 14. *Plethodon cylindraceus*/*glutinosus* (White Spotted Slimy Salamander/Northern Slimy Salamander) – (1,2,3,7)

Slimy salamanders were the most abundant salamander found during the survey weekend. Animals were found under bark, under logs, and one in a tree hole.

### 15. *Pseudotriton ruber* (Red Salamander) – (1)

Only one *Pseudotriton ruber* was found during the survey time. It was discovered under a log.

16. *Notophthalmus v. viridescens* (Red-spotted newt) – (2,4,6,7)

Newts were observed in many locations. One eft was found on the walking trail at site two. Adults were found in Douthat Lake, swimming in the woodland vernal pond at site seven, and near a boggy area at site four.

Reptiles

17. *Plestidon fasciatus* (Five-lined Skink) – (3,6,7)

Five-lined Skinks were observed on fallen logs and under plywood at sites three, six and seven.

18. *Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus* (Northern Fence Lizard) – (6,7)

Six Northern Fence Lizards were found basking on fallen trees at sites six and seven. Several were inspected at site six and were found to have mites near ear openings.

19. *Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen* (Northern Copperhead) – (8)

One live copperhead was found under leaf litter at the bottom of a ravine on the Guest Lodge Trail at Douthat State Park. Two DOR snakes were observed on Route 629 about 5 km south of the junction of Route 39.

20. *Carphophis amoenus amoenus* (Eastern Wormsnake) – (7)

Wormsnakes were found under logs and under bark at site seven.

21. *Crotalis horridus* (Timber Rattlesnake) – (3,5)

Timber Rattlesnakes were found at two sites. One was found at site three. This animal was crossing a trail through *Rhodendron* within 7

## Warm Springs Survey

meters of Bald Knob Lookout Tower (4250' elevation). Two rattlesnakes were observed basking on rocks near the TNC observation deck at site five. Two sheds were also found at this site.

### 22. *Diadophis punctatus* (Ring-necked Snake) – (6,7,8)

Ring-necked Snakes were the most commonly observed snake. Animals were found under rocks and under bark at three sites.

### 23. *Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum* (Eastern Milk Snake) – (3)

One Eastern Milk Snake was captured as it crossed a gravel road at site three.

### 24. *Nerodia sipedon sipedon* (Northern Watersnake) – (6)

One adult and one juvenile Northern Watersnakes were found on and under rocks at the spillway at site six.

### 25. *Opheodrys aestivus* (Rough Green Snake)

Rough Green Snakes were not found at Warm Springs Mountain Preserve or Douthat State Park. One DOR animal was found on Route 629, 100 meters south of Buck Horne Campground. This animal was dissected and found to contain three eggs.

### 26. *Pantherophis alleghaniensis* (Eastern Rat Snake) – (1)

A single Eastern Rat Snake was found crawling on a hillside next to the fire road at site one.

### 27. *Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata* (Northern Red-bellied Snake) – (5)

A gravid female Northern Red-bellied Snake was observed between rocks near the TNC observation deck.

28. *Thamnophis sirtalis* (Eastern Garter Snake) – (4)

One Eastern Garter Snake was captured near a boggy area at site four.

### Discussion

The objective of the spring VHS meeting and survey is to help increase our knowledge of herps in Virginia. This main goal was achieved during the weekend survey. To my knowledge no herpetological inventory work has been done for Warm Springs Mountain Preserve, so the VHS was able to begin to develop a list of species for this area. By the end of the day on Saturday we compiled a list of 18 species for the sites that we visited. Unfortunately we were not able to find *Scincella lateralis* as Hoffman (1986) reported finding from this property some two decades earlier. Because this property is vast the VHS was only able to sample a small portion of the total property. As more amateur and professional herpetologists conduct work on these sites and new sites on the property, this species list has the potential of increasing significantly. Herpetological surveys should also be conducted at different times during the year to record species that have activity periods at different times and in different seasons.

The return visit to Douthat State Park was made to increase the number of reptile observations there. The first visit to the park in 2003 yielded few reptile observations, especially of snake species. In the 2006 visit we did not add any new observations of reptiles but did increase the number of anuran species by three. *Lithobates palustris*, *Hyla versicolor*, and *Anaxyrus fowleri* were species previously undocumented for the park. *Hyla versicolor* appears to be a new county record; however we did not get a voucher recording or photograph. The species count for the park now can be raised by three from 28 to the current 31. This number has the likelihood of increasing significantly with some work on collecting snake species. After a review of the records in Michell and Reay (1999) 19 species have the potential of being found in the park. Ten of the 19 species are documented for

## Warm Springs Survey

Bath County and the other species are found in surrounding counties. *Pseudacris feriarum* is the only other anuran that might reside in the park; however *Scaphiopus holbrookii* has turned up in less likely places. Four salamander species including *Desmognathus ochrophaeus*, *Hemidactylium scutatum*, *Plethodon hoffmani*, and *Plethodon wehrlei* are good candidates for being added to the total park species list. The only turtle with the likelihood of being found in the park is *Chrysemys picta*. This turtle has not been found despite visual encounter surveys of Douthat Lake and the setting of baited hoop turtle traps on two different occasions. Lizard and snake species have the greatest potential of raising the park’s total species list. Four lizard and nine snake species might be encountered within the park’s boundaries. These species include *Aspidoscelis sexlineatus*, *Plestiodon anthracinus*, *Eumeces laticeps*, *Scincella lateralis*, *Coluber constrictor*, *Crotalis horridus*, *Pantherophis guttatus*, *Heterodon platirhinos*, *Opheodrys aestivus*, *Opheodrys vernalis*, *Pituophis melanoleucus*, *Storeria dekayi*, and *Virginia valeriae*.

Table 2. Comparison of surveys at Douthat State Park and Warm Springs Mountain Preserve.

Species Lists	Gibson and Hobson, 2006	Douthat State Park survey 2006	Warm Springs Mountain Preserve 2006
<b><u>Species</u></b>			
Amphibians			
<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>	*	*	*
<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>		*	
<i>Hyla versicolor</i>		*	
<i>Pseudacris c. crucifer</i>	*	*	*
<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	*	*	
<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>	*		*
<i>Lithobates palustris</i>		*	*
<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>	*	*	*

<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	*		
<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	*	*	
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	*		
<i>Desmognathus fucus</i>	*	*	*
<i>Desmognathus monticola</i>	*	*	*
<i>Eurycea cirrigera</i>	*	*	*
<i>Eurycea longicauda</i>	*		
<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	*		
<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	*		*
<i>Plethodon cylindraceus/glutinosus</i>	**	*	*
<i>Pseudotriton ruber</i>	*		*
<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	*	*	*
<b>Reptiles</b>			
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	*		
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	*		
<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>	*	*	*
<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	*	*	
<i>Agkistrodon c. mokasen</i>	*	*	
<i>Carphophis a. amoenus</i>	*	*	
<i>Crotalus horridus</i>			*
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	*	*	
<i>Lampropeltis t. triangulum</i>	*		*
<i>Nerodia sipedon sipedon</i>	*	*	
<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>			
<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>			*
<i>Storeria o. occipitomaculata</i>			*
<i>Thamnophis s. sirtalis</i>	*		*
Total Number of species by site	28	19	18

## Warm Springs Survey

### Acknowledgments

John Agee, Ray Bartholomew, Mitch Bowling, Tim and Nick Christensen, Mike and Jerry Clifford, Pattie Crane, Robert and Rosemary Frezza, Jason and Mark Gibson, Karen, John, and Abby Johnson, Marty Martin, Larry Mendoza, Carol Pollio, Mike Rigsby, Chris Risch, Rebecca Parada Rivera, Gene, Katherine, and Hannah Sattler, Paul Sattler, Kory and Emily Steele, Samantha Todrella, Dave and Wes VanGelder, Joy Ware, Susan Watson, and John, Charise, Jennifer, and Amy White. I would like to thank the three anonymous reviewers for editing an earlier draft of this manuscript.

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## **Fifth Annual HerpBlitz: Survey of Kiptopeke State Park**

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### **Introduction**

The fifth annual HerpBlitz was located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia at Kiptopeke State Park. The Eastern Shore was selected for this HerpBlitz because the VHS has not conducted a survey in this area of Virginia. The intent of HerpBlitz is to select a different place each year in a section of Virginia which has very few sampling records or a unique habitat. Kiptopeke State Park is a newly formed park, having opened in the early 1990's. It is an oasis of habitat in a sea of agricultural fields and private land holdings. Kiptopeke State Park is located in North Hampton County and resides in the coastal plain physiographic province. The soil is composed predominantly of sand and is very well drained. There are no streams, no springs, and very limited standing fresh water with the exception of the ponds described below. Kiptopeke State Park encompasses 227 hectares (562 acres). The current stewards of the park are actively collecting information on the types of plants and animals which inhabit the park's boundaries and are making specific management plans to better protect the environment. They were very pleased that we wanted to visit the park and very helpful at organizing the survey and giving us unprecedented access to all areas. The park is aggressively restoring habitat by planting trees in remnants of agricultural fields. One of their major goals is expanding the existing maritime forest into reclaimed agricultural fields. The park hosts a diversity of habitats including a 1.6 hectare (4 acre) man-made pond, a large barrow pit, two interdunal ponds, forested dunes and active sand dunes, newly planted agricultural fields, a half mile of beach, and one of the few

## Survey of Kiptopeke State Park

remaining mature maritime forests on the Eastern Shore. For recreation the park has 144 camping spaces, 9 km (5.6 miles) of hiking trails, a fishing pier, a public beach, and a boat ramp giving access to the Chesapeake Bay. The park is very well organized and maintained.

### Study Sites

The park was divided into two equal parts to accommodate two survey groups that were formed on 12 June 2010 of the survey. The dividing line was set to ensure that each survey group had a diverse portion of habitat with some water. Essentially the property was divided in half from east to west. The northern portion contained sites 1 and 2. The southern portion contained sites 3 and 4. Site 5 was set aside for a total group survey on the afternoon of 12 June. The descriptions that follow give a glimpse of some of the attributes of each site. GPS coordinates represent a point taken at the center of each site. GPS coordinates were obtained from Google Earth.

Site 1: Northwestern Portion of Park (37°10'21.88"N,  
75°58'47.17"W)

This site is located at the most northerly portion of the park. This site includes work sheds, debris piles, a ranger house, grass fields, a family cabin area with surrounding grass fields, and an old farm house. The main road coming into the park was searched as part of this site.

Site 2: Barrow Pit on northeastern edge of property (37°10'6.28"N,  
75°58'19.58"W)

This site consists of an old barrow pit surrounded by a mixed pine/hardwood forest. The barrow pit edge has many cattails and is heavily vegetated. The woods surrounding the pit are mature. The edge habitat is grown up with greenbrier and poison ivy.

Site 3: Duck Pond (37° 9'54.01"N, 75°58'23.00"W)

The duck pond is a newly acquired 1.6 hectare (4 acre) pond which the state park just added to the property. It is located on the eastern edge of the property adjacent to Route 13. Next to the pond is a house and surrounding the pond are agricultural fields which have been planted in trees.

Site 4: Maritime forest in southern portion of park (37° 9'42.04"N, 75°58'44.56"W)

This section of the park include trails which traverse through a maritime forest. Dominant tree species include *Quercus velutina*, *Ilex opaca*, and *Prunus serotina*. Other tree species and herbaceous plants are *Pinus taeda*, *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Smilax sp.*, *Rubus sp.*, *Vitis sp.*, and *Toxicodendron radicans* (Wendy Mooring personal communication.).

Site 5: Interdunal Ponds in the northwestern portion of the property (37°10'11.80"N, 75°59'8.63"W)

This site by far is the most interesting and diverse. The ponds are surrounded by dunes on the eastern and western sides. At this site there are two major ponds and then a wet area at the southern end of the second pond. Surrounding the ponds is a mature maritime forest. To the west are active dunes with grassy vegetation and small shrubs and actively moving sand.

## Materials and Methods

The fifth annual Herpblitz began at 0800h on 12 June 2010 and ended at 1000h on 13 June 2010. Two teams of 8 and 10 people respectively surveyed different parts of the park for half a day on Saturday. The team with 8 people surveyed sites 1 and 2. The team with 10 people surveyed sites 3 and 4. A combined group of 12 people surveyed site 5 on Saturday afternoon. See Table 1 for the amount of survey effort for each research site. At each site surveyors implemented standard

## Survey of Kiptopeke State Park

collecting techniques including hand capture, visual observation, flipping surface debris, dipnetting, road cruising, and listening for calling anurans. In addition to these survey methods, 4 baited hoop turtle traps were deployed on Saturday night at site 3. Each animal captured was inspected for health, signs of disease, and presence of parasites or mutations. Digital photos were taken to record each species collected. Group leaders were tasked with recording all species and animals collected or observed and information regarding a description of the survey site.

Table 1: The amount of survey effort per research site.

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5
Number of hoop nets set			4		
Number of surveyors	9	9	10	10	12
Hours surveyed	2	1.5	1	2.5	1
Person hours of survey effort	18	13.5	11	25	12

### Results

Despite 79.5 person hours of survey effort only 13 species of amphibians and reptiles were found during the survey time period. Of the 13 species five were anurans, two were turtles, two were lizards, and four were snakes. No salamanders, adult or larvae, were found. A total of 46 animals were captured or heard calling. Table 2 lists each species found and the total number of animals found at each site.

This is the fewest number of animals and species that any member present at the survey could recall. An annotated checklist below documents observations made for each species.

Table 2. Summary of the number of animals observed at each site.

Sites/Species	1	2	3	3a	4	5
Amphibians						
<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>	2	NM	7M			NM
<i>Hyla cinerea</i>	1D	4C	1			C
<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>			3C			1C
<i>Lithobates sphenoccephalus</i>			2			5T
<i>Pseudacris crucifer crucifer</i>						2M
Reptiles						
<i>Chrysemys picta picta</i>				7		
<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	1S		1			
<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>		1			1	
<i>Scincella lateralis</i>					1	
<i>Carphophis amoenus</i>		1			1	
<del><i>amoenus</i></del>						
<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	1		2			
<del><i>constrictor</i></del>						
<i>Nerodia sipedon sipedon</i>			1			
<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>					1	
Total Number of animals by site	4	6	17	7	4	8

3a = animals captured in turtle trap, T = tadpole, M = metamorph, S = shell, D = Dead on road, N = numerous, C = calling anurans observed

## Survey of Kiptopeke State Park

### Annotated Checklist Amphibians

1. *Anaxyrus fowleri* (Fowler's Toad) – [1,2,3,5]

*Anaxyrus fowleri* was the most commonly observed anuran during the survey. A lone male was observed calling at night at site 5. Small water puddles near this site yielded many observations of small toadlets in the road and boat parking lot. Many DOR toadlets were collected on the road. At site 1, an adult was found under a board in the work shed area. Another adult was found dead (presumably drowned) in a half full five gallon bucket of water in the work shed area. Numerous toadlets were observed at the edge of the barrow pit at site 2 and along the edge of the pond at site 3.

2. *Lithobates catesbeianus* (American Bullfrog) – [3,5]

American Bullfrogs were observed calling at the duck pond at site 5 and from the edge of an interdunal pond at site 3.

3. *Lithobates sphenoccephalus* (Southern Leopard Frog) – [3,5]

Two adult *Lithobates sphenoccephalus* were observed basking on the edge of the 1.6 hectare pond at site 3. Five Leopard Frog tadpoles were dipnetted in the two interdunal ponds at site 5.

4. *Pseudacris crucifer crucifer* (Northern Spring Peeper) – [5]

Two Northern Spring Peeper metamorphs were hand-captured on vegetation in the interdunal ponds at site 5.

5. *Hyla cinerea* (Green Treefrog) – [1,2,3,5]

Male Green Treefrogs were observed calling at sites 2 and 3 during the survey time period on Saturday. Several males were observed calling

at night from site 5. One DOR adult was found on the main road in front of the park office.

### Reptiles

6. *Chrysemys picta picta* (Eastern Painted Turtle) – [3]

The only aquatic turtle species observed during the survey was the Eastern Painted Turtle. Many were observed swimming in the large pond at site 3. Two predated nests were seen along the edge of the pond at site 3. Four baited hoop turtle traps captured five female and one male painted turtles.

7. *Terrapene carolina carolina* (Eastern Box Turtle) – [1,3]

One adult female box turtle was found under the deck of the house beside the pond at site 3. One dry shell was found in a small patch of woods adjacent to the Ranger's house.

8. *Plestiodon fasciatus* (Five-lined Skink) – [2,4]

Five-lined Skinks were found on the boardwalk at site 4 and under a piece of bark in the woods surrounding the barrow pit at site 2.

9. *Scincella lateralis* (Little Brown Skink) – [4]

One Little Brown Skink was captured under a log in the pine forest at site 4. Another was observed in the grassy vegetation on a dune near the fishing pier. This observation was made outside the survey time period.

10. *Carphophis amoenus amoenus* (Eastern Wormsnake) – [2,4]

An Eastern Wormsnake was found under a log in a pine forest at site 4. Another juvenile snake was found under a log in the small forest surrounding the barrow pit at site 2

## Survey of Kiptopeke State Park

### 11. *Coluber constrictor constrictor* (Northern Black Racer) – [1,3]

One juvenile Northern Black Racer was found under a board in a trash pile near the work sheds. Site 3 yielded two black racer observations. One snake was foraging at the edge of the pond. The other snake was found dead. The cause of death could not be determined.

### 12. *Nerodia sipedon sipedon* (Northern Watersnake) – [3]

A single Northern Watersnake was observed basking at the edge of the pond at site 3.

### 13. *Pantherophis alleghaniensis* (Eastern Ratsnake) – [1,4]

One survey member found a skin of a large Eastern Ratsnake under a vacant Ranger's house. A second large adult ratsnake was hand captured while it was crossing a road at site 4. This animal had one eye missing.

## Discussion

Everyone's general opinion after the survey was complete and total amazement at how little amphibian and reptile life exists within the park's boundaries. The species and total animal counts were the lowest anyone could remember from any survey conducted by the VHS. With this said, expectations before the survey were low after reviewing the literature of known surveys in locations near Kiptopeke State Park (see Table 3). Roble et.al (2000) reported a total of 17 species of amphibians and reptiles for Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve just to the north of Kiptopeke. Their study was much more comprehensive, covering dates from April to October and totaling 16 sampling dates. Mitchell (2002) summarizes the herptofaunal assemblage for the Eastern Shore and reports 41 species of reptiles and amphibians for North Hampton County. So why are there so few animals and species? To answer this question we must

take into consideration the climate conditions, geography, geology, and history of this location. Leading up to the survey date, Kiptopeke State Park had been dry. Weather conditions play a large role in the behavior of these species and this dry weather could have diminished the number we encountered. Geographically, Kiptopeke is a small island of habitat surrounded by agricultural fields and residential development. The eastern edge of the park is bordered by Route 13 which has moderate traffic flow. The western edge of the park is the Chesapeake Bay. The northern and southern parts of the park come into contact with active agricultural fields. There are no dispersal corridors for species to migrate. This park is located at the tip of a peninsula; a peninsula not known for high herptofaunal biodiversity. Geologically the sediments making up the soil are sand. This type of soil has very poor water retention properties. The park has no streams, no springs, no pocosin-like wetlands, and therefore very little water and water related habitats. Historically, the general area has been highly affected by European agricultural practices. No early records of amphibians and reptiles were kept to fully understand the declines that this area surely must have experienced after 1608. Even more recently, before acquiring the property, the site was a ferry station and a private campground. Management practices such as killing snakes in the campground might have impacted the diversity we see today. Since acquiring the property the state park is a hot spot for recreational tourism. How this will further impact the herptofauna remains to be seen.

So what will the future hold for herps in this park? The consensus among members present is that the park management appears to value restoration efforts and is actively engaged in this process. Recommendations we might suggest are keeping debris piles instead of cleaning them up. Immediately remove any erosion netting as this is linked to snake mortality (Mitchell et.al, 2006). Board up the cellar portion of the old farm house in the family lodge area to reduce the chances of it becoming a deadly pitfall trap for all types of animals. Increase the number of puddles, decrease drainage from the property. Retention of any water will increase habitat for amphibians. In

Survey of Kiptopeke State Park

regards to longer term goals, buying up land or developing easements to make dispersal corridors between other public land holdings would be desirable.

Table 3. Summary of four studies on the Eastern Shore.

	JCM <sup>1</sup>	JCM <sup>2</sup>	SMR	KSP
<b>Sites</b>				
<b>Species</b>				
<b>Amphibians</b>				
<i>Acris creptians</i>	*	*	*	
<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>	*			
<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>Gastrophryne carolinensis</i>	*	*	*	
<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>	*	*		
<i>Hyla cinerea</i>	*	*		*
<i>Pseudacris crucifer crucifer</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>Pseudacris feriarum (kalmi)</i>	*	*		
<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	*		*	*
<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>	*	*	*	
<i>Lithobates palustris</i>	*			
<i>Lithobates sphenoccephalus</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>	*			
<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	*	*		
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	*	*	*	
<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>	*			
<i>Hemidactylum scutatum</i>	*	*		
<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	*	*	*	
<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	*	*	*	
<b>Reptiles</b>				
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	*	*		
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	*	*		
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	*	*		
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	*	*		

<i>Chelydra s. serpentina</i>	*	*		
<i>Chrysemys picta picta</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	*	*		
<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i>	*	*		
<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>	*	*		
<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>	*	*	*	
<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	*			
<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>Plestiodon laticeps</i>	*	*		
<i>Scincella lateralis</i>	*	*		*
<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	*	*		
<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>	*	*		
<del>mokasen</del> <i>Carphophis amoenus</i>	*	*		*
<del>amoenus</del> <i>Coluber constrictor</i>	*	*	*	*
<del>constrictor</del> <i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	*	*	*	
<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	*	*	*	
<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	*	*		
<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	*	*		*
<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	*	*		
<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>Storeria dekayi</i>	*	*		
<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	*	*		
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	*	*		

JCM<sup>1</sup> = Joe Mitchell Checklist for Herps of the Eastern Shore as reported in Mitchell (1999), JCM<sup>2</sup> = Joe Mitchell list of herps for North Hampton County as reported in Mitchell (2002), KSP = Herps of Kiptopeke State Park, SMR = Herps of Savage Neck as reported in Roble et.al (2000) and Roble (2001).

## Survey of Kiptopeke State Park

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## **Scalation of the Eastern Mudsnake (*Farancia abacura abacura*) in Virginia**

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Four road-killed Eastern Mudsnakes (*Farancia abacura abacura*) were collected from the counties of Prince George, Isle of Wight, Charles City and New Kent from 2007-2010. The Charles City County and New Kent County specimens represent the northernmost records and the only recorded occurrences north of the James River (Kleopfer and Watson, 2009; Kleopfer, 2010). Here we describe scalation for each specimen for comparison to the descriptions by Mitchell (1994) and Palmer and Braswell (1995). We also report on scalation not described by these authors.

Although our observations (Table 1) were similar to those described by Mitchell (1994) and Palmer and Braswell (1995), two novel morphological characteristics were noted. In all four specimens we found the last ventral scute was divided giving an appearance of having two divided anal plates. Palmer and Braswell (1995) describe the ventral scutes of the Eastern Mudsnake as undivided with the anal plate and last ventral scute being divided. This description

## Scalation of Eastern Mudsnakes

has also been noted in unpublished data from Eastern Mudsnakes inhabiting the Upper Coastal Plain of South Carolina (J.D. Willson and C. T. Winne, pers. comm. 2010). However, an undivided last ventral scute was not noted by Mitchell (1994).

Partial or incomplete ventral scutes were found in the Isle of Wight County, New Kent County and Charles City County specimens and can be described as a ventral scute that appears to have not completely developed and only partially extends across the ventrum. This abnormality may indicate the possibility of a partial or extra vertebrae (A. Savitzky, pers. comm. 2010), as the number of ventral scutes is a 1:1 correlation with the number of vertebrae (Johnson, 1955). However, X-rays were taken of these specimens at VCU-Medical Center and no partial or extra vertebrae were observed.

In most snakes, females have higher ventral and lower subcaudal counts, whereas males have the reverse (Shine et al., 1999). Female Eastern Mudsnakes have fewer subcaudals indicating a relatively short tail (Mitchell, 1994; Palmer and Braswell, 1995). Our findings were consistent with this. The three females we examined had fewer subcaudals with the male having fewer ventrals. This supports Mitchell's findings that the only sexually dimorphic characteristic is the tail/total length ratio and that Eastern Mudsnakes with 40 or more subcaudals are most likely males. Although no notable variation was observed among individuals or those found north and south of the James River, the New Kent County specimen was found to have an extra temporal scale.

All specimens were individually tagged and preserved in 95% ethanol. They are currently stored at Virginia Commonwealth University's Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences.

Table 1. Size and scalation of four Eastern Mud Snakes from Virginia. All measurements in mm.

Specimen	Prince George Co. (♀)	Isle of Wight Co. (♀)	New Kent Co. (♀)	Charles City Co. (♂)	Mitchell, 1994	Palmer and Braswell, 1995
Total Length (TL)	1135	997.5	1210	823	max. 1489	max. 1650
Snout Vent Length (SVL)	1097	986	1080	689	max. 1350	max. 1488
Ventral	193	197	189	177	169-199	173-198
Subcaudal	37	37	37	46	31-51	32-49
Ventrals + subcaudals	229	233	225	222	200-237	no description
Dorsal scale row at midbody	19	19	19	19	19	19
Infralabial	8/9	8/8	9/9	9/9	8/8, 8/9 or 9/9	9/9, 8/8, 8/9, 7/9, 9/10, 10/10
Supralabial	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7 or 7/8	7/7, 6/7, 7/8, 5/6, 7/9
Internasal	1	2	1	1	1	no description
Prefrontal	2	2	2	2	no description	no description
Frontal	1	1	1	1	no description	no description
Supraocular	2	2	2	2	no description	no description
Parietal	2	2	2	2	no description	no description
Postocular	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2, 1/2, 1/1
Preocular	no	no	no	no	no	usually absent
Loreal present	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	usually
Temporal	1+2/1+2	1+2/1+2	1+1+2/1+2	1+2/1+2	1+2/1+2	no description

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## Scalation of Eastern Mudsnakes



Figure 1. Anal plate and divided last ventral scutes of *Farancia a. abacura*.

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**Obituary**  
**Franklin J. Tobey, Jr. (1919-2010)**

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Numerous amateur naturalists who have a paying job doing one thing but spend their free time devoted to a field of science have made substantial and sometimes significant contributions. One such person was Franklin J. (Frank) Tobey, Jr. He was an amateur naturalist interested in the communication of science to the public. He contributed much to herpetology, in this case to the herpetology of Virginia.

I first met Frank at a Virginia Herpetological Society (VHS) meeting at Camp Shawondasee in Chesterfield County in the fall of 1962. This was my first VHS meeting at age 14. The VHS officers made me feel welcome despite my age. Frank and the other society officers were devoted to Virginia's amphibians and reptiles and sought to keep it state-focused, despite some pressure to add exotics to society activities. Frank and the others, including my uncle Costello Craig, helped me to see that they were doing science by adding knowledge to our understanding of this group of animals. I credit Frank, Cos, and the VHS at that time for planting the seed that later caused me to become a professional scientist. I also credit these persons for making sure that including young people has always been a large part of how the VHS operates.

The VHS originated in the mind of Frank Tobey. As a high school student in New Jersey, Frank helped amass distribution records for the snakes of that state (Trapido, 1937). With that background, he saw the need for such herpetological information when he came to Virginia. In 1957, he wrote an article on snakes for Virginia Wildlife (Tobey, 1957) and asked if there were people who might be interested

Franklin J. Tobey, Jr. (1919-2010).

in forming a group. He and the original officers determined that their first focus would be on gathering locality information to generate distribution maps. He found like-minded friends, particularly W.L. Witt, another amateur, and started to accumulate reliable information on the distribution of amphibians and reptiles in the Commonwealth. The only checklist of species with locality information (e.g., counties) available on this topic was E.R. Dunn's (1936) checklist with county notations. These first VHS officers also consulted scientific papers written by others such as R.L. Hoffman (e.g., Hoffman 1944, 1945a, b, 1953), to obtain geographic location information. Frank was the repository of the society's distribution records derived from the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Amphibians and Reptiles, other museums, the literature, and viable reports from citizens. His goal was to produce, through the VHS, a book with detailed distribution maps for all of Virginia's native species. It was to be a long-term project that finally came to fruition in 1985 (Tobey, 1985). Frank Tobey was a prominent figure in the VHS during its first 21 years of existence, and during lean times he WAS the VHS.

Frank and the co-founders of the VHS (W.L. Burger, O.K. Goodwin, R.H. deRageot, W.L. Witt, J.T. Wood) met at Camp Shawondasee on 18 October 1958 to officially inaugurate the society. Frank, having been a reporter and associate editor of a Washington, D.C. magazine, became the Secretary and newsletter editor. He wrote, printed, and distributed a total of 90 issues of the VHS Bulletin between 1958 and 1979, sometimes mailing as many as 300 copies of each issue. Although there were articles written by members, much of the information he wrote himself based on correspondence and notes from members. The journal *Catesbeiana* took the place of the VHS Bulletin a year after the last bulletin appeared (1979). Frank also organized many of the early VHS meetings, including those at the National Zoo in Washington.

Franklin Joseph Tobey, Jr. was born on 22 February 1919. He grew up in Newark, New Jersey, where he was a member of the Newark Museum's Natural Science Club from 1933 to 1938, when he

graduated from high school. He was an Eagle Scout and assisted the camp doctor at BSA Camp Mohican for many years. He enrolled in Seton Hall University in Newark but transferred to Columbia College in New York, graduating in 1942 as a dual zoology and political science major. He was inducted into the U.S. Army on 10 June 1942 where he was trained at Camp (now Fort) Pickett, Virginia, as a motor transport officer in the Medical Corps. He was commissioned a Lieutenant after additional training at the Army Medical Field Service School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1943. He served in Ardennes, the Rhineland, and central Germany during World War II. He assisted in the return home of Allied Forces who had been in German Prisoner of War Camps. Soon after returning to the United States in early 1946, he married Carolyn Wiederspahn in June of that year. He graduated with a Master of Arts in Economics from Columbia College in 1947 and a year later settled in Oakton, Fairfax County, Virginia. He also lived in Maryland for a few years while still running the VHS before his move to a stone house on a ridge near Purcellville in Loudoun County. They had two daughters, Carolyn Tobey Berardesco and Alix Tobey Southwick, and one son, Franklin Joseph Tobey III. Joe played bagpipes at dawn at some of the field-oriented meetings in the early 1960s, sometimes to the ire of some participants. Frank had six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Until 1959, Frank was a reporter and editor for the Public Utilities Fortnightly magazine but that year he was invited to join the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission as a media consultant and liaison with the U.S. Public Health Service. He remained in the U.S. Army Reserve until he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in February 1969 (Figure 1). Frank was always proud of his years in Europe and especially Germany. He knew German well and always signed himself “Franz Josef” in letters to Richard Hoffman. Frank continued to produce the VHS Bulletin for ten years after retiring. In reviewing specimen lists for the distribution maps (Tobey, 1985), he discovered that a Six-lined Racerunner (*Aspidoscelis sexlineata*) housed in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, had been collected in the Civil War during the Seven Days Battle in Hanover County in 1862. He tracked down the collector’s name, which turned out to be Union General George G. Meade, or

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one of his staff. The specimen was sent to secure the attention of a Harvard scientist who Meade wanted on his staff. Frank's interests in history and herpetology combined to produce his article in the Civil War Times Illustrated (Tobey, 1991) that described this historical connection. Frank also contributed to the first effort to evaluate all of Virginia's threatened and endangered plants and animals by editing and writing some of the species accounts on amphibians and reptiles for the first book on the topic (Linzey, 1979; Tobey, 1979).

Upon retirement, Frank's long-time interest in geology and minerals led him to become active in amateur geology clubs (Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society and the Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, NJ) where he contributed articles to their newsletter. He wrote his memoirs of his experiences in World War II. He still contributed articles for *Catesbeiana* (Tobey, 1988, 1989a, b, 2008). In 1998, the VHS awarded Frank Tobey its first Lifetime Achievement Award during the society's 40th anniversary meeting in honor of his outstanding contributions to Virginia herpetology and the VHS. This award was established to recognize members who have made important contributions to Virginia's herpetofauna and exhibited a positive image that reflects the values of the VHS.

Frank Tobey (d. 6 May 2010) will be remembered primarily as the person who almost single-handedly kept the VHS alive for over 20 years. Many VHS members who knew him will remember his kindness and gentle prodding to gather distributional data. His dedication to Virginia herpetology as an amateur naturalist is unmatched. He influenced numerous young people through the Bulletin, correspondence, and interactions at VHS meetings, including me. Virginia herpetology will forever be grateful to this amateur naturalist from New Jersey. His dedication to science shows what can be done by amateur naturalists if one stays focused. Such a life dedicated to a worthy cause would well be emulated by others seeking to make a difference.

I remember Frank for his warm and enthusiastic support of all the members who showed up for the meetings, except for the very few

who were noisy and distracting. Even then he was the consummate diplomat, although he would tell some of us in private what he really thought. He was, after all, a military officer and acted much in that dignified manner. He was dedicated to the survey and followed up on each and every specimen location he knew about, and in those days it was all by letter. He told me that everything he learned about Virginia herpetology back then he put into the VHS Bulletin. Being a reporter, he of course put this material in more of a news format than a scientific format. I became less than enthusiastic about this approach around 1980 and when Frank said that number 90 of the Bulletin was his last, I advocated that the VHS start a new journal in a more scientific style. Richard Hoffman suggested the name *Catesbeiana*. Frank was not exactly pleased to see this turn of events but, nevertheless, as always, he remained a cordial and supportive friend and colleague. He could see that the VHS needed to grow in another direction and he graciously stepped aside to let us younger upstarts take over.

The set of distribution maps (Figure 2; Tobey, 1985) is a monument to his tenacity and love of Virginia herpetology. The meticulous records he kept on each specimen location are now protected for posterity in the VHS archives. Perusal of these documents shows that Frank was as honest and professional as any professional scientist. Virginia herpetology owes a great debt of gratitude to Frank for creating the first set of distribution maps for these two groups of vertebrates. Everything we have done and will do relative to the distributional biology of Virginia's amphibians and reptiles is and will be built on Frank's shoulders.

How can we thank Frank Tobey for his dedication to Virginia herpetology and the VHS? We can continue to recognize him as the pivotal person who helped to make us what we are. We can continue to focus solely on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles. And we can continue to be as honest and professional as we can possibly be in our endeavors to move the science of Virginia herpetology into the next decades of its existence. I am proud to say that the VHS has

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continued to carry Frank Tobey's legacy forward and expanded it into the broadly, but still Virginia-focused society that we are. We will continue to be a strong society if we do not forget our roots. And the tap root of the VHS must certainly be Franklin J. Tobey, Jr.

Acknowledgments – I thank Steve Roble and Susan Walls for critiquing earlier drafts of this obituary. Richard Hoffman provided the line about Frank's love of Germany. Janet Roetkin of the Virginia Museum of Natural History sent me a copy of a letter sent to Hoffman by Alix T. Southwick following Frank's passing. I thank Frank Tobey personally for his support of my long-term interests in Virginia herpetology and for his support of me personally.

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Franklin J. Tobey, Jr. (1919-2010)



Figure 1. Franklin J. Tobey, Jr. as a U.S. Army reservist in 1969.  
Photo provided to JCM by Frank Tobey.



Figure 2. Frank Tobey showing the page proofs of the Virginia herp distribution maps at a VHS meeting at the University of Richmond in 1982. Photo by JCM.

## Field Notes

**Jefferson Salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*)** VA: Warren Co., Shenandoah River State Park, 350 Daughter of Stars Drive, Bentonville, VA 22610 (N38 51.981 W78 17.958). 08 March 2009, Tony Widmer. 05 March 2011, Brett Clawson and Joe Mikus.

County Record: On 05 March 2011, at approximately 1900h, Brett found 12 adult Jefferson salamanders in a vernal pool, off the Cottonwood trail. On 08 March 2009, at 1942h, Tony found 5 adult Jefferson salamanders in the same vernal pool.

According to Mitchell and Reay (1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, VA, 122 pp.), Tobey (1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey. Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, VA. 114 pp.) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries wildlife database, this observation documents the first reported sighting of Jefferson salamanders in Warren County.

Digital images taken by Joe Mikus were deposited in the VHS archives (Digital voucher # 175).

Tony Widmer  
Shenandoah River State Park  
350 Daughter of Stars Drive  
Bentonville, VA 22610

Brett Clawson  
Shenandoah River State Park  
350 Daughter of Stars Drive  
Bentonville, VA 22610

Joe Mikus  
258 Jeb Drive  
Winchester, VA 22602

## Field Notes

***Pseudemys concinna concinna* (River Cooter)** VA: City of Richmond, Riverside Drive at Reedy Creek (37° 31.22' 76" N, 77° 28.10' 32" W, WGS84). 6 June 2008. Stephanie Foertmeyer.

Reproduction: The reproductive biology of the River Cooter is not well known. Most studies have been on ecology and movement patterns in river systems (e.g., Buhlmann and Vaughan 1991. Ecology of the turtle, *Pseudemys concinna*, in the New River, West Virginia. Journal of Herpetology 25:72-78; Lindeman, 1997. A comparative spotting scope study of the distribution and relative abundance of the river cooter (*Pseudemys concinna*) in western Kentucky and southern Mississippi. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 2:378-383). Mitchell (1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC. 352 pp.) reported clutch and egg sizes from four females collected or observed in Virginia. More observations on this species would improve our understanding of this riverine emydid. Here we report information on aspects of reproduction in a DOR female cooter found by SF on 6 June 2008 on Riverside Drive in the City of Richmond. The female was smashed when found and several eggs were strewn around her on the road. Three eggs had broken but six could be salvaged for measurement and incubation. Additional eggs could have been inside the female but she was not dissected. Mean egg length was 33.7 mm (32.4-34.4, n = 6), mean egg width was 21.9 mm (21.3-23.0, n = 6), and mean egg mass was 8.66 g (8.45-8.86, n = 5). One salvaged egg had cracked and lost some fluid. Eggs were incubated in a mix of 50:50 vermiculite and water by weight at 29.4 °C. Three eggs pipped on 29 July 2008 and three did not develop. Incubation time was 53 days. These hatchlings measured 30.9-31.5 mm carapace length (mean = 32.3 mm), 29.7-31.1 mm plastron length (mean = 30.2 mm), and mass was 6.38-6.93 g (mean = 6.66 g). All were released into the edge of the James River at Reedy Creek one week after hatching. The gravid female was apparently searching for a nesting site when killed. If that is true, then the date of 6 June would be the earliest recorded for a Virginia river cooter. Likewise, the hatching date would be the earliest recorded, as dates of 1 September and 4 October were noted in Mitchell (op. cit.), although incubation times were similar. Egg measurements were also smaller to those

## Field Notes

reported in Mitchell (op. cit.). Hatchling size as not been previously reported for this species in Virginia. Publication of additional data on the reproduction and ecology of *P. concinna* is warranted.

**Joseph C. Mitchell**

Mitchell Ecological Research  
Service, LLCA

P.O. Box 5638

Gainesville, FL 32627-5638

**Stephanie Foertmeyer,**

Address withheld by request.

**Eastern Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*)** VA: Loudoun Co. ,  
Algonkian Regional Park, 47001 Fairway Drive Sterling, VA 20165  
(N 39° 3'38.76", W 77°23'21.58"). 7 October 2010. Casey Pittrizzi

County Record: On 07 October 2010, at approximately 1030h, I found an adult eastern spadefoot while leading a nature walk. The spadefoot was found just off the White trail near the Algonkian Waterpark.

This species has not been reported in Loudoun County in Mitchell and Reay (1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, VA, 122 pp.), Tobey (1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey. Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, VA. 114 pp.) or the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries wildlife database. Digital images were deposited in the VHS archives (Digital voucher # 173).

Casey Pittrizzi, Naturalist

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

5400 Ox Road

Fairfax Station, VA 22039

## Field Notes

***Terrapene carolina carolina* (Eastern Box Turtle)** VA, City of Lynchburg, Odd Fellows Home, 600 Elmwood Avenue (37° 25' 32.85" N, 79° 10' 13.81" W). 25 January 2010 –29 March 2010. Benjamin Koester.

Behavior: During the winter of 2009-2010, a field study was conducted on Eastern Box Turtle hibernation behavior. This study was part of a larger and continuing radio telemetry study looking at movement differences between resident and translocated turtles. One of these translocated box turtles, a juvenile male, selected a hibernaculum location in a shallow depression near a collection of fallen logs. He buried himself 10 cm. below the soil in this depression and did not relocate during the winter. I conducted checks on this hibernaculum every 3 days. On a routine check on 25 January 2010, the depression was filled with water due to snow melt, putting the turtle under almost 8 inches of water. The water did not drain from this depression until 24 February 2010. Further melting and rainfall resulted in the depression flooding again on 12 March 2010 and remaining flooded until 29 March 2010. The depression remained dry until 23 April 2010 when the juvenile turtle emerged from hibernation and the study was terminated. No adverse side effects were observed in the turtle due to this period of aquatic hibernation.

This discovery of the Eastern Box Turtles' ability to adapt to aquatic hibernation presents a departure from traditional thought on terrestrial hibernation. Only one other study (Cahn, A.R. 1933. Hibernation of the Box Turtle. *Copeia*, 1933(1):13-14.) reported aquatic hibernation in Eastern Box Turtles. However, those turtles voluntarily chose a shallow aquatic site where the anterior portion of their plastron and carapace were not fully submerged. In this current study, the aquatic hibernation was involuntary and forced the box turtle to be fully submerged for almost a month. The fact that the turtle emerged from hibernation apparently in good health indicates their ability to physiologically adapt to a variety of adverse conditions. What other unrealized capabilities this and other turtle species possess during hibernation is an understudied field, in which further research is needed to help piece together these animal's interesting life history.

## Field Notes

Acknowledgements: I thank Liberty University for their financial support for this project and Norman Reichenbach for unwavering support, motivation, advice, and for allowing me to evolve his telemetry study into my own study during the winter. I also thank Jessica Harrison and Jeremiah Koester for field assistance, as well as the Odd Fellows Home for allowing access to their property for this study. This study was conducted under Virginia Scientific Collection Permit No. 036046.

### **Benjamin Koester**

Marshall University Herpetology Lab

1 John Marshall Drive

Huntington, WV 25755

[koester1@marshall.edu](mailto:koester1@marshall.edu)

## President's Corner

The VHS is conducting an unprecedented number of surveys for 2011. Usually we have an Annual Survey and one or two additional surveys, including the HerpBlitz. This year, however, we are having a total of five surveys! Not only are the surveys going to be distributed quite evenly throughout the state, but they are going to be spread out over four months. This will undoubtedly give our members the easiest access to VHS events than ever before.

### Surveys

We will be starting off the year by having our Annual Survey at Pocahontas State Park, the largest state park in Virginia. Located just south of Richmond, this fills in a void where no VHS surveys have been conducted in the state.

The VHS has been invited to the Old Colchester Park on Mason Neck in Northern Virginia. This is in the same area as the annual survey from 2010, but the VHS will be helping the park with their natural resource inventory. It's always nice when the VHS receives unsolicited invitations to do surveys. The VHS having a quality reputation for herp surveys is the result of decades of work by dozens of volunteers.

One of the most significant contributions the VHS will give to herp knowledge is helping the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) with their statewide Northern Diamondback Terrapin surveys. Past president Jason Gibson will be coordinating his sixth annual HerpBlitz at Hungry Mother State Park in western Virginia. One of the most unique surveys in VHS history will be one conducted in caves to look for cave-dwelling salamanders.

### VHS Business

The VHS also started off this year by providing our members with discounts on admission and memberships to numerous zoos, aquariums, parks and reptile shows. When we initially announced the discounts in our February newsletter, we had four participating organizations. Since then we have had three more organizations sign

up to participate! Members are encouraged to visit our website to keep up-to-date with the increasing number of discounts available.

Since establishing a dedicated e-mail address last year for the public to send us their identification requests, we have received over 100 e-mails. We have been able to extract a lot of information for the species people are most likely to encounter and have questions on. Of course we have received far more questions about snake identifications than all other classes of herps combined, and we have been able to educate the public and dispel a lot of myths and rumors.

In other e-mail news, the VHS has established static e-mails for elected officers. Since the people in these positions tend to rotate every two years, it can be troublesome when people want to reach whoever is the president of the VHS, for instance. This also enables us to essentially archive our e-mails so official VHS communications will not be lost when there are new elections.

We have also moved into the social media realm by being fully involved in our Facebook page. Thanks mostly to the help of our Webmaster, John White, there are identification quizzes posted routinely and this has become a great way to get members and potential members more involved. Since the number of people following the VHS on Facebook is more than double the number of our actual members, this is becoming a significant marketing tool and we hope to further capitalize on this by adding some of those to our membership roster!

Looking towards the near future, remember that the VHS has research grants available, up to \$500, with the potential of an additional \$500 matching grant from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Be on the lookout for an updated list of requirements on our website by the end of the year.

If you have questions about any of our surveys or business, please feel free to contact me at [president@vaherpsociety.com](mailto:president@vaherpsociety.com).

Virginia Herpetological Society  
Minutes of Fall Meeting 2010

The Fall Meeting was held at the Virginia Zoological Park 3500 Granby Street Norfolk, Virginia 23504 October 16, 2010. The meeting was called to order by president Kory Steele, at 3:20pm. The following old business was covered before the meeting was turned over to our committee chairs for reports:

Yahoo Groups continues to be popular, though participation can range from 15 - 100 posts per month. It has brought together a lot of herp enthusiasts, including non-members. We could increase our monthly posts if all VHS members participated. In April, business cards were purchased and are still available for the executive committee to hand out. In June, the new *Contact Us* page was created to provide a directory of the executive committee and descriptions of each member's functions and it allows the public to ask for assistance in identifying herps with a single herp ID email address (see education report below for details). A Google maps was created to show the location of members, surveys, and publication sites. This will aid in easy identification of areas lacking in surveys, as well as areas highly populated with VHS members. Our website domain was moved by Virginia Tech without notification and without forwarding ability to members clicking on our old URL. It was then decided to move our domain to a paid server for future stability. The cost was \$136 for a 3-year contract. The VHS received a \$500 grant from VDGIF to match the \$500 Grants in Herpetology awarded each year by the VHS. This grant money must meet the guidelines of the VDGIF Wildlife Action Plan. In July, a Google widget was placed on the *Contact Us* page to allow emergency and media inquiries immediate contact to the President, without revealing his personal phone number. In August, the Advisory Committee was created and appointed by the President. The 5 members include: Leeanna Pletcher, Craig Pelke, Caroline Seitz, Dr Rachel Goodman, and John Orr. A \$200 donation was made to La MICA Biological Station in Panama for their efforts in research and education that focus on conservation and preservation of their surrounding natural areas. The executive committee approved the expenses for the Treasurer to

attend an IRS Tax Exempt Organizations workshop in Raleigh, NC. Projected costs to be \$135. Emails were sent out to Va Herp professors in an effort to increase awareness of and involvement in the VHS. Kory continues to work on membership benefits by contacting area zoos, aquariums, and parks for VHS member discounts to their facilities. In early October, it was decided to allow the domains FrogStamp.org & HerpStamp.com to expire. They were part of a fund-raising idea for herp conservation that never materialized. Since there are no plans to continue with the project, there was no need to spend \$30 to maintain the domains.

Catesbeiana editor: Paul Sattler reported that 160 copies of *Catesbeiana* 30(2) were printed and 152 were mailed. He currently has major articles for the next spring journal, but is always open to more material, so please continue to send him your field notes. He did use new software on this journal and feels it is an easier format. The new software allows the journal to be transferred to PDF and hopefully allow it to become searchable, which would then allow the journal to be cited in books as reference and hopefully posted on depositories such as CNAH and Google scholar. Paul's goal is to decrease printing costs and mailing loads by making the journal available electronically. It was discussed whether to have members request how they receive the journal, electronic vs hard copy, when they renew or initiate their memberships; and to advertise the electronic option in the newsletter. Electronic copies would allow members to read their issue through the growing trend of Kindle, smartphones, and similar products.

Treasurer: Emily Steele was unable to attend the business meeting, therefore, a report was not given. See *Catesbeiana* for the corresponding report. The president reminded everyone of the upcoming IRS workshop that the treasurer will be attending on October 20, 2010 and provided the opportunity to the executive committee to write down questions they felt needed to be discussed with the tax specialists. He also announced that he will be attending the workshop as well.

## Fall Meeting Minutes

Education Committee: Mike Clifford was unable to attend the business meeting, but the following document was made available for viewing:

**Presentations:** Tim Christensen taught a 3-hour “Reptiles and Amphibians of Virginia” class for Cohort IV of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists on January 5, 2010 in Williamsburg. 16 participants attended. Tim Christensen and Steve Living (VDGIF) gave a presentation on “Snakes - What Do We Know About Them?” to Deer Park Elementary School 4-H students (Newport News, VA) on February 8, 2010. Approximately 20 students and parents attended. An hour-long “Snakes Alive!” show was given to 200 4-H members and volunteer leaders at Holiday Lake 4-H Center on June 23, 2010. The presentation focused on the identification and natural history of common snakes native to Virginia. Mike Clifford conducted the session. Tim Christensen presented “Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians” on 1 August 2010 to a group of approximately 20 children (elementary thru high school) and adults (parents). They are a conservation group called “Children About Restoration (C.A.R.)” which is part of the “Children of the American Revolution Society”. Location was Yorktown, VA. On 4 September 2010 in Charles City, Susan Watson and Tim Christensen conducted a workshop to train 14 VA Master Naturalists to deliver the “Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians in Virginia” presentation to selected audiences. Topics included “Herpetology at a Glance” (overview of herptofauna in VA), “Myths and Misconceptions” (about herptofauna), “Why Reptiles and Amphibians are Important” and a walk-thru review of the presentation they would use. Workshop ran from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Plans are for another on 6 November and possibly again in early January, plus 1-2 more next year.

Larry Mendoza awed a large Virginia Dominion Power audience at their early morning safety meeting in the northern Virginia region on 22 September 2010. The program focused on the native venomous and non-venomous snakes that the employees might encounter in their daily work.

A “ Snakes Alive!” exhibit and presentation was offered at the Amelia Family 4-H Festival on 25 September at the Amelia County Fairgrounds. Mike Clifford and Barry Fox conducted the session which focused on native snakes of Virginia.

Web-based public education: Under the leadership of webmaster John White, the VHS website has become the leading public information source concerning the state’s native reptiles and amphibians. The addition of features such as the “identification guides” and the “look-alike guides” to the photos, range maps, & links for all Virginia species, has generated wide-spread utilization and inquiry by the public.

A new herp identification service for the general public has been established. Visitors to the VHS website are directed to submit their questions and photos to: [animal-id@vaherpsociety.com](mailto:animal-id@vaherpsociety.com) . The requests will be processed by Kory Steele, John White, and/or Mike Clifford. As of 10/10/10, sixty-three herp ID requests have been handled via email so far this year. Details were presented in the August, 2010 VHS Newsletter (p.4). ID requests can also be posted on the VHS yahoo group message board. Numerous requests for snake control information were received during the year from distraught homeowners. Advice and helpful publications were provided as appropriate, via email. Topics include control strategies, snake-proof fencing, repellants, toxicants, and other questions of interest. Mike Clifford has copies of the documents available.

Research committee: Joy Ware reports that the research committee has been monitoring the following 3 refuges for 5 years: Presquile Island Refuge, Rappahannock Refuge, and James River Refuge. Presquile continues to result in the higher findings of lesions. Location could play a factor, but research must continue in order to prove this. Joy would like to expand areas monitored and is open to new project ideas. She continues to encourage more members to sign up for the research team.

Conservation Committee: Tim Christensen presented his report at the meeting.

## Fall Meeting Minutes

1. The Conservation Committee currently includes the following members: Tim Christensen, David McCarthy and Todd Fredericksen.

2. The Conservation Committee presents the following tasks and statuses:

a. “ Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians in Virginia” presentation.

(1) Committee members finishing the design for a 6-hour workshop intended for and offered to certified Virginia Master Naturalists (VMNs). The workshop is intended as a Train the Trainer forum so that VMNs can use the presentation to various audiences to help promote conservation of reptiles and amphibians across Virginia. The final draft of the workshop slides and materials were forwarded to several VHS members for feedback. The first workshop was held on 4 September 2010 at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Region 1 Office at Charles City. The workshop was conducted by Tim Christensen and Susan Watson with 15 VMNs representing at least 6 VMN Chapters from around the state. A second workshop is scheduled for 6 November 2010 at the Human Services Building in Williamsburg. Currently 46 VMNs from approximately 10 Chapters are registered. We are hoping to conduct 1-3 additional workshops in 2011.

b. An opportunity to teach a course entitled “ Reptiles and Amphibians of Southeast Virginia” with the Christopher Wren Association (CWA) at the College of William and Mary was initiated. The objective was to include a focus on conservation issues. Originally, the course was to run in October 2010; however, a 12-month jury duty requirement arose and commitment could not be made. This project will be revisited possibly for 2011.

3. Other actions:

a. Federal Duck Stamp Promotion: This was addressed at the Spring 2010 meeting and the committee would like to address again. This was promoted previously and we have information about it on the website. We would like to solicit ideas on promoting this more. One opportunity would be to obtain an information board from US Fish & Wildlife Service and/or Ducks Unlimited and post at the fall meetings and other events. Remember, ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes toward purchase

or lease of wetlands within the National Wildlife Refuge System-supports efforts towards habitat for herps. We could possibly post names of members who purchase them on the website.

b. Herp Stamp: We would like to revisit the “ Herp Stamp” idea. Several photo options had been developed a couple of years ago that could be sold for the purpose of raising funds for specific conservation projects. The challenge now is to (1) re-look at designing a “ stamp” , (2) means of offering for sale and (3) identifying projects the funds would support.

c. Threats to Herpetofauna Poster: The Committee proposed designing charts/posters that illustrate threats to herpetofauna. The suggestion is to have separate materials for anurans or amphibians as one group and one for turtles & snakes or reptiles as another group. This could potentially be made available for sale through the VHS Store, provided to schools, etc. Proceeds could go towards specific conservation-related projects. No further action has taken place since its proposal; however, due to time constraints this will be revisited in 2011.

4. Conservation key articles for newsletters: We had a guest writer prepare an article on diamondback terrapins as related to research by the College of William and Mary for the most recent VHS Newsletter. We should continue this in the future. Please let the Committee know if anyone is interested in writing a herp conservation-related article.

Newsletter editor: Susan Watson reports that all emails appeared to work for the last newsletter (August) when it was sent out electronically. There were no returned messages. She will need material for the next newsletter and encourages everyone to send it in now. She hopes to get the next newsletter out to our members by the end of January.

VHS Webmaster: John White reports the website is currently undergoing a redesign. He has created a new poster, «Snakes of the New River Valley», and this will go on sale along with the «Reptiles and Amphibians of Metropolitan Washington» posters. Prices for the posters have increased from \$18 to \$20 each. It was discussed that with the change in servers, the Society can now place

## Fall Meeting Minutes

for sale items on the website, whereas before we could not. Posting books and other posters for sale will be considered. John will start helping Emily Steele and Wendy Mooring with management of the Facebook profile. He has started a daily Herp ID trivia to encourage more participation with the Facebook fans. We are also considering changing the Facebook page into a Facebook group, but more research will be needed before making this decision.

Cafepress: Pattie Crane reports since becoming 501c(3) she has transferred the store account into the Society's name, address, and tax ID. She still needs illustrations for more material and will consider asking VHS members. She did communicate with a volunteer illustrator recently, but contact was lost. She will make more attempts to reach this illustrator for material.

The meeting continued in open discussion of new business presented by Kory Steele.

Scott Duncan, our secretary, will step down from his position. Demands at home and work have increased and he is unable to keep up with the duties of secretary. Emily Steele will be appointed as the new secretary, since she has held the position in the past. Pattie Crane has offered to assist Emily in any work she needs help with, due to their close proximity to each other.

Paul Sattler has been appointed as the VHS Archivist. The archives are already in his possession and he currently receives all journal submissions due to his position as the editor. of *Catesbeiana*.

Kory has held discussions with Rachel Goodman and Paul Sattler on implementing a grants protocol. They would like to increase awareness of the opportunity, as well as increase the number of quality submissions. They intend to create a structured set of guidelines and procedures and insure award fulfillment. Currently there is no enforcement on fulfillment of grant requirements.

Kory plans to create a Society calendar. This will help the VHS stay on task with upcoming events, proposals, and deadlines. It will

help remind the executive committee when announcements are due and can encourage the sending of letters to grant recipients when their fulfillment is due and letters to herp professors of upcoming presentation opportunities for students.

Survey sites for 2011 were discussed. Upon review of the Google survey map recently created, Carol County lacks surveys. New county records could exist. A possible one-day blitz in a new area off of Mason Neck will be considered. The idea of a frog-call specific survey was suggested, as well as a February salamander survey.

Fundraising ideas should now be considered with our 501c(3) status. We will look into discussions with other societies to get ideas on successful fundraising.

Fall Meeting locations to be considered: Headquarters of DGIF, UVA, VT, and the National Zoo. Jason Gibson has suggested that having the meeting in a university setting will increase student attendance and the student oral and poster presentation participation. He also encourages personal contact to keynote speakers and herp professors about the meeting. Splitting up the responsibility of emailing or even calling professors may gain more attention and understanding. Contact starting in April will provide enough time for professors and students to prepare for the October meeting.

An educational opportunity has been presented by Mike Clifford via email to assist a teacher from Charlottesville High School in creating herp monitoring activities for her students. Kory would like to consider this and other opportunities to increase involvement with high schools.

Submitted by Emily C. Steele  
VHS Secretary-Treasurer

**Virginia Herpetological Society  
Treasurer's Report March 2011**

**Balance on hand 10/01/2010** **\$5,650.46**

**Receipts**

New memberships	\$ 778.00
Renewed memberships	\$1,561.50
Dominion Power Donation	\$ 100.00
Herp Poster Sales	\$ 248.00
Additional <i>Catesbeiana</i> issues	\$ 50.00
Cafepress Commission	\$ 281.42
Virginia Living Museum donation	\$ 100.00
Fall Meeting:	
Items sold	\$ 343.71
Live Auction	\$ 87.00
Silent Auction	\$ 76.50
Additional <i>Catesbeiana</i> issues	\$ 15.00

**Total Receipts** **\$3,641.13**

**Disbursements**

Grants in Herpetology	\$ 1,000.00
USPS, 2 books of stamps	\$ 15.84
IRS Workshop expenses	\$ 125.16
Herp posters production	\$ 80.00
Printing <i>Catesbeiana</i> copies	\$ 19.07
State Corporation Commission fees	\$ 26.00
Pocahontas State Park, expenses	\$ 78.00
Fall Meeting:	
Lunch and refreshments	\$ 44.08
Keynote speaker	\$ 200.00
Poster contest awards	\$ 150.00
Oral presentation award	\$ 100.00
Items for sale	\$ 325.91
Member of the year award	\$ 84.18

**Total disbursements:** **\$2,248.24**

**Balance on hand 3/31/2011** **\$7,043.35**

Treasurer's Report by Emily Steele

## **VHS Annual Survey & Meeting - May 20-22**

The VHS will help the Virginia State Parks celebrate their 75th birthday by holding the Annual Survey and Meeting at the state's largest state park, Pocahontas State Park near Richmond. Almost 8,000 acres is available to the VHS in our first large-scale survey around Richmond. Pocahontas State Park is relatively centralized in the state, and has a lot of on-site amenities for family members not attending the survey.

### **Location:**

Chesterfield County, 20 miles south of Richmond  
10301 State Park Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832-6355

### **Events:**

Friday, 20 May: Business meeting, Survey coordination 6 PM to 9 PM, Heritage Center (in park)

Saturday, 21 May: Main-event survey, 8 AM to 4 PM

Sunday, 22 May: Secondary survey, 8 AM to 12 PM

\*Participation in all events is not required, come and go as you please.

### **Lodging:**

Ample campsites are available (reserve early!)

The closest hotels are approximately 15 miles away in Midlothian, Virginia (west of the park). Or, in Chester, Virginia (east of the park). No cabins are available in the Park.

### **Park Website:**

[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/poc.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/poc.shtml)

### **Park Phone:**

(804) 796-4255

See the VHS website for the:

[Documented Amphibians and Reptiles of Chesterfield County](#)

## Field Notes

The field notes section of *Catesbeiana* provides a means for publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior, and other topics are welcomed. Field Notes will usually concern a single species. The format of the reports is: scientific name (followed by common name in parentheses), state abbreviation (VA), county and location, date(s) of observation, observer(s), data and observations. The name(s) and address(es) of the author(s) should appear one line below the report. Consult the editor if your information does not readily fit this format. All field notes must include a brief statement explaining the significance of the record (e.g., new county record) or observation (e.g., unusual or rarely observed behavior, extremely early or late seasonal record, abnormal coloration, etc.). Submissions that fail to include this information are subject to rejection. Relevant literature should be cited in the body of the text (see Field Notes in this issue for proper format). All submissions will be reviewed by the editor (and one other person if deemed necessary) and revised as needed pending consultation with the author(s). If the field note contains information on a new county (or state) record, verification is required in the form of a voucher specimen deposited in a permanent museum (e.g., Virginia Museum of Natural History) or a photograph (print, slide, or digital image) or recording (cassette tape or digital recording of anuran calls) deposited in the archives of the Virginia Herpetological Society. Photographs and recordings should be sent to the editor for verification and archiving purposes; the identity of voucher specimens must be confirmed by a museum curator or other qualified person. Include the specimen number if it has been catalogued. Prospective authors of distribution reports should consult Mitchell and Reay (1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia), Mitchell (1994. The Reptiles of Virginia), and Tobey (1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey) [both atlases are available on-line on the VHS website] as well as other recent literature to determine if they may have a new county record. New distribution records from large cities that formerly constituted counties (Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach) are acceptable, but records from smaller cities located within the boundaries of an adjoining county will only be published if the species has not been recorded from that county. Species identification for observational records (e.g., behavior) should be verified by a second person whenever possible.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

High contrast photographs (prints, slides, or digital images) of amphibians and reptiles will be considered for publication if they are of good quality and are relevant to an accompanying article or field note. Digital images are preferred. Published photographs will be deposited in the VHS archives.

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